

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on February 26, 2007. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to express his gratitude to the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview with Applicant's representative David Klein, Reg. Patent Agent 41118, on April 18, 2007. The amendment to claim 1 was discussed and it was suggested to clarify the language of the claim.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Heflinger et al (EP 1065764).

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heflinger et al (EP 1065764) and further in view of DiGiovanni (US 5937134).

Although Applicant traverses the above rejections, for the purposes of expediting allowance, claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of claim 9.

In the rejection of claim 9, Examiner states "the length of the straight core section in figure 7 [of Heflinger et al] is at least as long as the length of the tapered core section. The entire straight core section is attached to the receiving fiber at one end."

Applicant respectfully believes this is an error. In figure 7, it is clearly seen that only the tapered section 102 with perhaps a tiny portion of the straight section forms interface 103 which is attached to the dual clad fiber 20, designated attachment section 18 by the Examiner. All the rest of the straight section (virtually all of it) is not attached to dual clad fiber 20, but rather runs along and past cladding 21 of multimode fiber 25 and past grating 35, as seen in figure 7. This language, for the sake of expediting allowance, has been placed in claim 1 and claim 9 has been cancelled. The language has been further clarified in accordance with suggestions in the telephone interview. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 6-8 are deemed allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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